

whittierdailynews.com

More than 300 Whittier-area teachers get preliminary pink slips

By Tracy Garcia Staff Writer

Posted: 03/15/2010 05:52:29 PM PDT

Education



Get the scoop on schools, teachers and students. Visit our [Education page](#) for more articles and photos.

More than 300 temporary and tenured teachers at seven Whittier-area school districts received notice Monday they may be out of a job this fall.

That's because \$2.5 billion in state cuts to education proposed for the 2010-11 fiscal year forced the districts into making deep staffing cuts.

The 20,000-student Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District sent out the largest number of teacher layoff notices. The Reduction In Force (RIF) notices went to 145 certificated employees.

Districts had until Monday to notify certificated employees - teachers, counselors, nurses, administrators - they could be laid off for the 2010-11 school year. Final layoff notices must go

out by May 15.

Other area districts also sent out notices, including:

El Rancho Unified, which mailed out 65 layoff notices;

Little Lake City: which notified 37 employees;

Los Nietos SD sent notices to 27 employees;

South Whittier SD notified 18 employees;

Whittier City SD, which sent out about 46 layoff notices;

and Whittier Union High School District, which informed eight employees of potential layoffs.

The majority of the notices went to teachers, some of whom were temporary or probationary teachers whose contracts come up for renewal every year, district officials said.

Others employees included a middle school vice principal in the Los Nietos district, a principal in the South Whittier district, two Whittier Union counselors, and an assistant superintendent in the Whittier City district, along with middle school counselors there.

The RIF notices help district financial officials plan for worst-case budget scenarios, even though nothing is certain until the state passes a budget.

Advertisement



UNIVERSITY of
SAN FRANCISCO

End-to-End Training as It Should Be: 100% ONLINE!

Earn Your Master Certificate in Internet Marketing

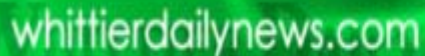
→ SEO & Paid Search
→ Online Branding
→ Web Analytics

→ Internet Law
→ Media Buying
→ Social Media



1-800-268-9943
USanFranOnline.com/FD

Print Powered By FormatDynamics™



"It's been a very painful process for us," said Phillip Perez, superintendent of the 5,000-student Little Lake City School District in Santa Fe Springs.

"We feel like we're sending off a whole cohort of our newest teachers," Perez said. "We invested in them and they invested in us, and it's very difficult.

"My fear is that we're going to inadvertently discourage many talented, capable professionals from choosing teaching as a career."

To date, more than 22,000 California teachers have received pink slip notices, as well as 10,000 other school employees and more than 1,000 administrators, according to the nonprofit Education Coalition.

Locally, two districts didn't issue any RIF notices - East Whittier City School District and Montebello Unified School District.

East Whittier Superintendent Joe Gillentine said a healthy reserve and ongoing cuts have kept the 8,800-district from having to trim as drastically as its neighboring counterparts, although it may have to do so in the 2011-12 school year.

But at the 32,000-student Montebello Unified, Associate Superintendent of Instruction Art Revueltas said officials got creative with staffing this year - an effort aided by the fact that it is the third-largest school district in Los Angeles

County.

"We had to reduce 99 positions and about 50 of those came through attrition and early retirement," Revueltas said. "Then some, about 15, were temporary contracts that are not guaranteed a job."

For the 40 or so teaching positions that remained to be cut, employees were given an "early transfer opportunity," he said.

"We had elementary school people who were math or social science majors, who were a good fit for openings at the high school level," Revueltas said. "Maybe it's not what they thought they wanted to do, but we worked with the teachers association to come up with a way to get the transfers done.

"The bottom line is, we saved our workers," said Revueltas "We humanely managed our work force."

tracy.garcia@sgvn.com

562-698-0955, ext. 3051

Advertisement



Florida Tech
UNIVERSITY ONLINE

Bring the Classroom to Your Home

With a Degree Online From Florida Tech





APPLY TODAY!

FloridaTechOnline.com/FD | 1-888-253-5946

Print Powered By  **FormatDynamics™**